Concordia University Pagan Society April 2000

Tidings

How to Reach Us

At Our Office

7141 Sherbrooke St. West
Room SC 03-3 (Loyola)

Office Hours
Every Thursday 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Alternate Hours are posted on the Office door (Or by appointment)

By Phone

(514) 324-9316 General Info
(514) 848-7441 Please leave a message

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Editorial

Volume 4, Number 8

Can't you just smell the Spring in the air? Pretty soon, we'll even be able to go out in the warmer weather and not worry that it will start snowing again (at least for another 6 months or so).

In this issue, we're bursting at the seams with information on our Beltane ritual, poetic contributions, and a short article on Beltane.

If at any time, you wish to put a notice in our newsletter, let me know. I can always be reached at the following email address: tygerwyld@fastmail.ca.

As always, any commentary may be left at the CUPS office.

Blessings to all!

Why the Heck...?

Come join CUPS at its monthly General Meetings. We will hold discussions on a variety of topics of interest to Pagan folk. Come out and contribute or just listen. Suggest a topic for an upcoming meeting!

Next meeting:

Time:
Friday, April 28 at 7:00pm

Place:
Campus Ministry (Room Z-03)
2090 Mackay (downtown campus)
Please call (514) 848-7441 for info.

Topic: none

Due to the Beltane ritual that follows this evening's meeting, there will be no formal discussion topic. Instead, we will go over the events for the month of May, as well as take suggestions for upcoming events or volunteers to lead upcoming Sabbats or Esbats.

April Happenings

April 28th CUPS Beltane Ritual

An Arthurian Ritual Lead By Rowan. Hobbes and Friends

Place: 2090 Mackay, Room Z-105
Time: 8pm (Tardiness will not be tolerated for this event.)

From the Ether

In this installment, we will present two contributions. The first is actually the second poem sent to me by Stefan at my email address (tygerwyld@fastmail.ca). The next literary selection is a little something to get us in the mood from the Beltane ritual leader, Rowan. You will also find an article on Beltane (which I hope will prove to be informative). Enjoy!

Thrice Toss These Oaken Ashes in the Air--Thomas Campion 1567-1620

Thrice toss these oaken ashes in the air;
Thrice sit thou mute in this enchanted chair;
Then thrice three times tie up this true love's knot,
And murmur soft: "She will, or she will not."

Go burn these poisonous weeds in yon blue fire,
These screech-owl's feathers and this prickling briar,
This cypress gathered at a dead man's grave,
That all thy fears and cares an end may have.

Then come, you fairies, dance with me a round;
Melt her hard heart with your melodious sound.
In vain are all the charms I can devise;
She hath an art to break them with her eyes.

Bulletins

* Join us at cupagans@eGroups.com! It's a great place to receive the latest news about CUPS on the Internet & to get into some very lively discussions.

To subscribe, send a message to: cupagans-subscribe@eGroups.com
To unsubscribe, send a blank email to: cupagans-unsubscribe@eGroups.com
To post a message, send the email to: cupagans@eGroups.com

About Tidings

Tidings is a free newsletter published by the Concordia University Pagan Society (CUPS) on the last week of each month.
Announcements of interest to the Pagan community will be printed free of charge.
Submissions for upcoming issues must be received by 5pm on the following dates:

May 19th and June 16th

From the Ether (cont'd)

Visions -H V Norton
(The Search for England, c.1890)

You will remember, Lady
How the morn came slow
Above the isle of Athelney.
And all the flat lands
Lying to the sky
Were shrouded sea-like
In a veil of grey,
As,
Standing on a little rounded hill,
We placed our hands upon the Holy thorn.

Do you remember in what hopeful fear
We gazed behind us,
Thinking we might see
Arthur
Come striding through
The high, bright corn,
Or Alfred
Resting on a Saxon spear?

And as the cold mists
melted from the fields,
we seemed to hear the winding of a horn.

You will remember how we walked the
Vale
Through Meare and Westhay
Unto Godney End.

And how we said,
"Time is an endless lane
and Life a little mile
without a bend...."

Behind us what?

Before us,
If we ran,
Might we not be in time to see the Grail?

Beltane by Herne

April 30th -- Beltane
Also known as Roodmas or May Day

Beltane has long been celebrated with feasts and rituals. Beltane means fire of Bel; Belinos being one name for the Sun God, whose coronation feast we now celebrate. As summer begins, weather becomes warmer, and the plant world blossoms, an exuberant mood prevails. In old Celtic traditions it was a time of unabashed sexuality and promiscuity where marriages of a year and a day could be undertaken but it is rarely observed in that manner in modern times.

In the old Celtic times, young people would spend the entire night in the woods "A-Maying," and then dance around the phallic Maypole the next morning. Older married couples were allowed to remove their wedding rings (and the restrictions they imply) for this one night. May morning is a magickal time for wild water (dew, flowing streams, and springs), which is collected and used to bathe in for beauty, or to drink for health.

The Christian religion had only a poor substitute for the life-affirming Maypole -- namely, the death-affirming cross. Hence, in the Christian calendar, this was celebrated as 'Roodmas'. In Germany, it was the feast of Saint Walpurga, or 'Walpurgisnacht'. An alternative date around May 5 (Old Beltane), when the sun reaches 15 degrees Taurus, is sometimes employed by Covens. (Both 'Lady Day' and 'Ostara' are names incorrectly assigned to this holiday by some modern traditions of Wicca.)

Think of the May pole as a focal point of the old English village rituals. Many people would rise at the first light of dawn to go outdoors and gather flowers and branches to decorate their homes. Women traditionally would braid flowers into their hair. Men and women alike would decorate their bodies. Beltane marks the return of vitality, of passion. Ancient Pagan traditions say that Beltane marks the emergence of the young God into manhood. Stirred by the energies at work in nature, he desires the Goddess. They fall in love, lie among the grasses and blossoms, and unite. The Goddess becomes pregnant of the God. To celebrate, a wedding feast, for the God and Goddess must be prepared. Let Them guide you! Breads and cereals are popular. Try oatmeal cakes or cookies sweetened with a dab of honey. Dairy foods are again appropriate...just make a lovely wedding feast and you are sure to enjoy yourself! An early morning walk through a local park or forest could be fun for everyone. Gather up some plants or flowers to display in your home. Mom and daughter could braid their hair, and weave in a few tender blossoms.

Blessed Be!

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